



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service • Legislative and Public Affairs
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USDA ANNOUNCES AVAILABILITY OF RISK ASSESSMENTS ON THE ANIMAL HEALTH STATUS OF DENMARK AND FRANCE

WASHINGTON, April 2, 2008 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) today announced the availability of risk assessments on the animal health status of Denmark and France. Both countries had an outbreak of the H5N1 subtype of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in poultry in 2006.

Based on the analysis, APHIS has determined that imports of live birds, poultry carcasses and eggs (other than hatching eggs) from poultry, game birds or other birds present a low risk of introducing HPAI H5N1 into the United States.

The analysis showed that both countries had adequate detection and control measures in place at the time of the outbreaks. It also affirmed that each country effectively controlled and eradicated HPAI H5N1 in their domestic poultry populations and their animal health authorities have control measures in place to quickly identify, control and eradicate the disease should it be reintroduced.

Notice of this action was published in the March 27 *Federal Register*.

Consideration will be given to comments received on or before April 28. Send two copies of postal mail or commercial delivery comments to Docket No. APHIS-2008-0012, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Comments can be submitted on the Federal eRulemaking portal at <http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=DocketDetail&d=APHIS-2008-0012>.

Comments are posted on the Regulations.gov Web site and also can be reviewed at USDA, Room 1141, South Building, 14th St. and Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. To facilitate entry into the comment reading room, call (202) 690-2817.

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